

Library activity continued on much the same level as in 1948-49, with a total circulation of 186,180. Evening attendance numbered 14,700. No record was kept of the day-time use of the various reading rooms, but they were filled to capacity during most hours of the day.

STAFF

The staff of the Library consisted of 23 full-time assistants (of whom 12 were professional) and 6 half-time assistants, including a Delivery Boy. Mrs. Emma MacDonald B.A. (U.B.C.) B.L.S. (Toronto) joined the staff in July to take charge of the Agriculture Reading Room.

Student Assistants

Twenty-six student assistants were employed for varying periods weekly, assisting at the desk, shelving books and doing routine typing. Particular effort is made to advise and encourage those wishing to enter the library profession. Three of our assistants, graduating this Spring, are already enrolled for the Fall term at Library Schools. Two earlier graduates will be returning to the Staff this Spring as professional assistants.

QUARTERS

The problem of space for readers and books has continued acute, and will be increasingly so until we move to our new quarters in the Rutherford Library. We have been forced to continue placing little-used sets and volumes in dead storage. Work has continued all winter on the interior of the new library, but owing to delays in the delivery of hard woods, the completion of the building has again been delayed until December 1950.

CATALOGUING and ORDERS

This Department consisted of the Chief Cataloguer, the Order Librarian, four full-time and three part-time assistants. Three months during the summer were devoted to the recataloguing of the Education Library (Edmonton) This library, which came to us in 1945 from the former Normal School was badly in need of this reorganization.

The work of placing typed book-cards and pockets in all volumes in the Library, preparatory to the setting-up of an improved circulation system in the new library, was carried on throughout the year. Work on card catalogues for the Agriculture and Law reading rooms was continued. These were badly needed as formerly there was no card index to these collections except that in the Main Library.

During the year the Department ordered 3,769 titles; accessioned 7,676 volumes; catalogued 8,827 volumes; including 859 bound journals; lettered 5,717 volumes; withdrew 372 worn or out-of-date volumes; and typed 38,334 cards.

REFERENCE, CIRCULATION and PERIODICALS

Total circulation statistics of the Main Library were slightly down from those of 1948-49. The work of the Department has not decreased, however, since the greater demand for books, journals, and other special materials from the stack and for reference service has offset a lesser use of Reserve books. This would indicate that the students were doing more independent reading as opposed to the prescribed reading of the Reserve shelves. The staff consisted of seven full-time assistants (of whom three were professional) and 13 student assistants, employed at the desk during rush or evening hours, or in shelving books.

Circulation

During the year the circulation from the Main Library was 67,096, which includes: Books and journals from the stacks 20,437; Books from the Reserve shelves 43,056; Special pamphlets, journals, etc. 3,176; and extramural loans from the Main Library 409.

The Extramural loan service of the entire University library was considerably heavier than last year with 1,577 books sent out by mail to 504 borrowers, as compared with 840 books sent to 369 borrowers in 1948-49.

REFERENCE, PERIODICALS, BINDING

In September Miss Joan Daffoe joined the staff as Reference Assistant, enabling us to increase and improve the reference service to students, and to lighten the heavy loan on the Reference Librarian.

This Department is responsible for reference service to faculty members and students, for periodicals, and government documents and for the binding of books and journals for the entire University library. During the year 1,083 current journal subscriptions were placed and recorded (an increase of 51 over the previous year). 2,192 periodicals and books were bound or rebound. The Interlibrary loan service increased again over last year; 132 items were borrowed for members of the faculty from other institutions and 245 items were lent to other libraries. We are pleased to find that this service to other universities is increasing, as we have for so long been the recipient of their kindness, without being able to reciprocate to any great extent. Forty microfilms were purchased for staff members engaged in research.

BRANCH LIBRARIES

Education Library (Edmonton)

This has been the busiest year in the history of this branch library. The Education Librarian, with three full-time assistants, circulated 62,578 books and journals, an increase of more than 10,000 over the previous year. Extramural loans increased to 928 as compared with last year's figure of 559. Since July 1st, 4,709 unbound journals were circulated testifying to the amount of use that is being made of the Education Index, during the first year in which we have subscribed to it.

During four months in the summer great strides were made in the recataloguing and reclassifying of the book collection according to the Library of Congress scheme. This reorganization of the shelves and the possession of an adequate card catalogue greatly lightens the work of the library staff, and adds to the convenience of readers.

Education Library (Calgary)

This library serves the Faculty of Education at Calgary. The book collection consists of reference books, texts and general background reading for both Education and first year Arts.

During the year the Education Librarian, with a half-time assistant, circulated a total of 12,570 books and journals, and 810 items of pamphlet and picture material. Student attendance in the library was 19,952. Since this is an open-shelf library these statistics fail to indicate the actual use of the books within the library. Instruction in library methods and the use of indexes and other reference material was given to all the students, and was reflected in their increased use of the various materials on the shelves and of the pamphlet and picture files.



Medical Library

This year for the first time since 1945 there has been a slight drop in the overnight circulation of books from this Reading Room, possibly attributable to the better availability of text books for student purchase. The library, however, has been used more for study during the day than formerly, and the medical and dental journals are being used increasingly, both for general reading and in the preparation of papers.

Total circulation for the year was 19,370; 3,074 items were circulated to rural and city doctors. Current subscriptions to Medical journals now number 268, an increase of 13 over 1948-49. 272 bound journals were added to the collection. On interlibrary loan, 33 items were borrowed and 67 loaned to other libraries. During the year we sent 350 items, mostly unwanted duplicate journals to other libraries and received in exchange 1,094 items needed to fill gaps in our bound journals. The Medical Librarian continued to give instruction in the use of the library to first year Medical, Dental and Household Economics students.

Agriculture Reading Room

Since July this Reading Room has been for the first time in charge of a qualified librarian, Mrs. E. MacDonald. Under her supervision the entire book collection has been reorganized, a pamphlet file set up and indexed, government reports and bulletins rearranged, and the gaps filled. This reorganization, along with the completion of the card catalogue, and the provision of trained reference service, has added very greatly to the usefulness of this branch library. Attendance in the library was 7,994 and circulation for overnight use was 8,959. Since this is an open shelf library, no count is made of the books and journals used in the library.

The Nursing and Chemistry Reading Rooms, each seating about 20, were used to capacity, and the latter was kept open during the noon-hour to accommodate students in Chemical Engineering. Heavy use is also made of this reading room by the Mining, Engineering and Agriculture students. The number of readers in this library was 13,151; and the circulation 14,200. Statistics for the Mining library, which has very little space for readers, were 599 circulation.

The Law Library continued to receive extremely heavy use. With 135 students registered in Law, it has been difficult to give them all adequate study facilities. The work of binding or rebinding hundreds of volumes in the collection, in poor condition after the war years, was continued, and many new books and sets were purchased to bring the library up to date.

STOCK OF BOOKS

During the year 3,320 titles were added by purchase and 359 by gift, making with bound journals, a total of 8,827 volumes; 372 volumes were withdrawn, giving us 106,750 accessioned volumes. In addition there are 12,025 accessioned volumes in the Education Library (Calgary) and some 10,000 volumes as yet unaccessioned in the Education Library (Edmonton) making a total book stock in the University Library system of approximately 129,000 volumes at March 31, 1950.

RADIO TALKS

During the winter of 1949-50, 15 book talks were given by members of the University Library staff in the series "Books at Random" presented over CKUA, in cooperation with the Extension Library Staff. This was the fifth season for this series.

Sets of Special interest

The following are items of special interest purchased by the Library during the year:

Thorpe's Dictionary of Applied Chemistry in 9 volumes; The Canadian Abridgement, Howell's State Trials in 34 volumes, Encyclopedia of forms and precedents, and Couch's Cyclopedia of insurance, in 12 volumes, for the Law Library; Schweitzer Lexikon in 7 volumes; Larousse du XX^e siècle in 6 volumes; The Stationers Register, 8 volumes; Beethoven. Werke, in 24 volumes; Brahms. Werke, in 26 volumes. (These, together with the set of Bach's Works in 46 volumes purchased in 1948-49, constitute an extremely valuable music reference collection)

GIFTS

We are grateful for the following gifts to the Library.

From Mrs. S.H. McQuaig, her half-interest in the collection of Canadiana formerly owned by Chancellor Rutherford. This is a valuable collection of early Canadian books and pamphlets much of it dealing with Arctic discovery and the exploration and settlement of Western Canada;

From the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Alberta a grant of \$400 for the purchase of books for the Medical Library;

From Mrs. W.N. Watson, a further collection of books on economics from the library of the late William Newton Watson;

From the Friends of the University a grant of \$780 to purchase a Microcard Reader and a complete set of The Rolls Series of the Public Records Office on microcards. This is an especially useful research set for History and English;

From the Class of '49 a gift of \$110 for a special piece of furniture for the Music Room in the Rutherford Library;

From Mrs. G.M. Smith and Mr. Bob Spooner a gift of the personal library of the late George Malcolm Smith, formerly Professor of History and Dean of Arts and Sciences. This is a valuable collection of books on history, political science and international relations;

From Mrs. Robert Newton, Professor R.K. Gordon, Mr. Ernest Brown, Dr. D.A. Keys, H.R. Milner, K.C., Professor D.M. Healy, Miss Elizabeth Walker, Calgary Associate Clinic, Dr. C.A. Berner, and numerous other sources, gifts of books, all of which have been duly acknowledged.

Respectfully submitted,

Marjorie Sherlock,
Librarian.

